

and their members have spread these values throughout South Jersey and I'm proud to represent them in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, places of worship, like Congregation Beth Tikvah, are vital to our communities. They provide people comfort in times of need, care for those less fortunate, and enable people to come together and express their faith. I'm grateful for the impact Congregation Beth Tikvah has made on South Jersey. And I know many of my constituents feel the same way.

PROCLAMATION FOR MS.  
BRIDGETTE DIXON THURMAN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 28, 2017*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following proclamation for Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman:

Whereas, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service; and

Whereas, Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman has answered that call by giving of herself as an Assistant Principal at Dunaire Elementary, and as a beloved daughter, mother and friend; and

Whereas, Ms. Thurman has been chosen as the 2017 Administrator of the Year, representing Dunaire Elementary school; and

Whereas, Ms. Thurman is a graduate of the DeKalb County Schools, a mother of children in the DeKalb County Schools, a former teacher in the DeKalb County Schools, and for the past 25 years continues to make a difference in the lives of children as an Administrator in the DeKalb County Schools System; and

Whereas, Ms. Thurman is a virtuous woman, a courageous woman and a fearless leader who has shared her vision, talents and passion to help ensure that our teachers and administrators have the tools, support and resources needed to promote and produce an educational product that the community will find desirable; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman for her leadership and service for our District and in recognition of this singular honor as 2017 Administrator of the Year at Dunaire Elementary School;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim May 22, 2017 as Ms. Bridgette Dixon Thurman Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 22nd day of May, 2017.

THE RETIREMENT OF JIM RUANE,  
MAYOR OF SAN BRUNO, FROM  
PUBLIC OFFICE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 28, 2017*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary public service of

Jim Ruane, the Mayor of San Bruno, California, who is leaving office after 22 years of unparalleled leadership, eight of them as Mayor. His wisdom, eloquence, and devotion to civic leadership will be sorely missed by the 43,000 residents of his beloved community by the bay.

Jim was first elected to the city council in 1995 after previously serving on the planning commission. Since he joined the council, and under his leadership and that of colleagues, San Bruno has undergone a transformation. A deactivated Navy base was transformed into a vibrant, mixed use community. Tanforan Shopping Mall has been revitalized and San Bruno's downtown core is poised for revitalization. Jim's service also includes the contentious period leading to the establishment of BART service to the San Francisco Peninsula, through San Bruno.

The creation of an elevated right of way for Caltrain above San Bruno Avenue was decades in the making. Today, traffic in San Bruno moves smoothly and without interruption from the 92 daily commuter trains that serve the Peninsula. Personally, I love trains, but it would take a true romantic to love being stuck on San Bruno Avenue in a long line of traffic as the trains go by on a hot summer day.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the most solemn duty that any of us undertake as elected representatives is to defend our community's interests after a fatal assault. On September 9, 2010, San Bruno was fatally assaulted by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company when a 30 inch high pressure natural gas pipeline ruptured, killing eight innocent people, destroying 38 homes, and damaging dozens more. The fire was so enormous that fire equipment from throughout the Bay Area and beyond responded.

From the beginning, and for years afterwards, Jim Ruane was, without question, one of the finest public servants I have ever witnessed. Literally in the heat of the moment, he offered accurate and comforting information to his community and also to the world. In the days and months after the explosion, Mayor Ruane led his community in endless meetings, forcing PG&E to answer tough questions about its role in the explosion and deaths. Throughout that time, I joined him and witnessed his steady hand in both quieting traumatized crowds and reassuring tearful neighbors that justice would be done and answers delivered.

Mr. Speaker, San Bruno didn't have to pursue justice by suing PG&E, but it did. San Bruno didn't have to pursue justice by exposing corruption at a state agency known as the California Public Utilities Commission, but it did. San Bruno did not have to issue subpoenas and release documents to the world exposing the cozy relationship of PG&E and its regulators, but the city did because doing so was part of the process of justice needed to demonstrate that no entity—including PG&E—is above the law. The utility was subsequently found guilty in federal court of multiple felonies. It was fined \$3 million by the court, after earlier being penalized \$1.6 billion by a reconstituted California Public Utilities Commission.

I am firmly convinced that the leadership of San Bruno—and importantly all of its councilmembers during these years—did our nation a public service by independently seek-

ing justice in this case. Notably, Jim Ruane was the ever-present face of conviction. He remained absolutely convinced that America's legal system would allow a mouse to roar. And roar it did. We as a Congress have failed to learn the lessons of San Bruno, and have repeatedly failed to cure the defects in federal statutes that contributed to the San Bruno catastrophe. However, the actions of the City of San Bruno have made America safer by forcing management to consider safety in pipeline operations.

Jim Ruane is the loving father of Jim Jr. and Stephanie, and the proud grandfather to Gavin, Patrick, Brendan and Ryan. He is also the devoted husband of Noreen, his partner in life and fellow resident of San Bruno for over 40 years. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War era.

Today, I rise to celebrate Mayor Jim Ruane, a man like few others. He is quiet and wise in normal times, but imbued with a natural command presence during times of exigency. In my book, he is one of our local heroes. With his departure, we thank him for bringing justice to us all, crafted like the best plaster ornamentation his company creates in its daily work, an enduring beauty for every citizen to behold.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REDUCING  
LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 28, 2017*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Reducing Long-Term Unemployment Act to address one of the lingering workforce tragedies in today's economy—our long-term unemployed—and to keep the economy growing. Although the overall unemployment rate has fallen to approximately four percent, Americans who have remained unemployed for longer than 27 weeks have not enjoyed a similar recovery. In October 2017, the number of long-term unemployed (those jobless for 27 weeks or more) was 1.6 million, which accounted for 24.8 percent of the total unemployed population.

To make matters even worse, the long-term unemployed now face employment discrimination as employers show reluctance to hire these job-seekers because of the length of their unemployment. Therefore, my bill provides a necessary incentive to hire the long-term unemployed—a \$5,000 tax credit for employers against their payroll tax liability for each (net) new long-term unemployed person they hire. This tax credit is large enough to give employers an incentive to increase the hiring and wages of those who have been unjustifiably left behind, while ensuring that the economy benefits from their participation. The credit would be available to the broadest base of employers because every employer, including nonprofits, pays payroll taxes, and employers could claim the credit on a quarterly, rather than annual, basis. According to the independent, non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the proposal would "increase both output and employment" through four mechanisms: (1) with lower employment costs, employers would reduce the costs of their products and services, which, in turn, would first